Early clearance of power projects

4687. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an inordinate delay in executing the power projects of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the steps taken to bring about stability in the policy to ensure speedy implementation of power projects; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Implementation of a project is taken up only after all necessary inputs/clearances including financial package are tied up. Availability of adequate and timely funds, weak project management, problems of land acquisition etc. have been identiHed as the primary factors hindering timely commissioning of new capacities.

(c) and (d) Government has inter-alia taken the following steps to expedite clearances and ensure timely implementation of power projects:

(i) Procedures for obtaining necessry statutory clearances have been simplified and streamlined.

(ii) Monitoring mechanism in CEA and Ministry of Power has been streamlined and strengthened to oversee the progress of works, identify critical bottlenecks and suggest reme-, dial measures.

(iii) Higher funding has been provided for projects being implemented by the Central Power Sector Undertakings.

(iv) Government has introduced a scheme for providing concessional finances through Power Finance Corporation for accelerating the commissioning of ongoing projects in the State.

(v) Projects for power generation, transmission and distribution are permitted foreign equity participation upto 100% on the automatic approval route provided the foreign equity in any such project does not exceed Rs. 1500 crores.

(vi) The policy for use of liquid fuels for power projects has been modified. Accordingly, the States would be free to contract for new power projects based on furnace oil and non-traditional fuels like condensate and Ormolsion over and above 12000 MW capacity based on liquid fuels.

(vii) Counter guarantees procedure has been simplified to enable faster financial closures of such projects.

(viii) A Bill to enable tariff rationalization through regulatory commissions has been passed. This would enable States/State Electricity Boards to improve their financial credibility with the financial institutions so that new investments in the power sector are expedited.

(ix) For projects costing less than Rs. 1000 crores which are proposed to be set up through competitive bidding route, techno-economic clearance from CFA, is not required

(x) The Bill for amendment of electricity Supply Act to identify transmission as an independent activity and encourage larger inves'tmcHt in transmission has been introduced in the Pariiament.

बिजली की दर में वृद्धि

4688. **श्री रामजीलाल** : क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क)क्या यह सच है कि पिछले दो वर्षों से बिजली की दरों में भारी वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख)यदि हां, तोए तत्संबंधी राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या हैं;

(ग)मूल्यावृद्धि की कृषि तथा उद्योगों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ा हैं;

(घ)गत दो वर्षों में बिजली उत्पादन कितना बढ़ा हैं और तत्संबंधी राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या हैं;

(ड.)देश की आवश्यकता के अनुरूप उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए प्रयास किए गए हैं; और